

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10 SCCT-01 ACDA-10 /089 W

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P R 201349Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 801

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 018

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRELAND CIVIL SERVANTS MEET PROVISIONAL

SINN FEIN

REF: BELFAST 14

1. TWO OFFICIALS NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE MET TWO NORTHERN IRELAND MEMBERS PROVISIONAL SINN FEIN WHICH LEGAL POLITICAL ARM PROVISIONAL IRA SUNDAY JAN. 19 SOMEWHERE BELFAST REGION. ONE OFFICIAL PROBABLY FCO ADVISOR JAMES ALLEN. CONTRARY SOME PRESS REPORTS OTHER PROBABLY NOT RPT NOT PERMANENT UNDERSECRETARY SIR FRANK COOPER. IN STATEMENT EVENING JAN. 19 SECRETARY OF STATE MERLYN REES EMPHASIZED TALK WAS FOR PURPOSE MAKING GOVERNMENT POSITION CLEAR AND NOT RPT NOT FOR NEGOTIATION. REES REITERATED GOVERNMENT POSITION EXPRESSED BEFORE IN HIS COMMONS AND OTHER STATEMENTS THAT GOVERNMENT ACTIONS DEPENDENT UPON CESSATION VIOLENCE.

2. MOST EARLY REACTIONS TO FACT TALKS HELD WERE NOT RPT NOT HOSTILE. OFFICIAL UNIONISTS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT TALKS WITHIN CONTEXT REES ASSURANCES THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE HELD. DEMOCRATIC UNIONIST PARTY (DUP) LEADER IAN
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PAISLEY DEMANDED KNOW IDENTITY PARTICIPANTS AND AGENDA.

PROTESTANT PARA-MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS BEGINNING EXPRESS UNEASE THAT CONCESSIONS WILL BE MADE TO PROVISIONALS. DELEGATION NOMINALLY OF UNITED LOYALIST CENTRAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE AND HEADED BY GLENN BARR MET WITH SIR FRANK COOPER EVENING JAN. 19. IN SUBSEQUENT RADIO INTERVIEW BARR TOOK TOUGH LINE TOWARD PROVISIONAL IRA. HE HINTED THAT LOYALIST PARAMILITARY BODIES PARTICULARLY ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION WOULD END THEIR CEASEFIRE IF PROVISIONALS RESUMED TERRORISM.

3. DESPITE HEAVY RAIN SOME TWENTY THOUSAND BELFAST RESIDENTS AT LEAST HALF FROM CATHOLIC AREAS MET AT BELFAST CITY HALL IN PEACE DEMONSTRATION ORGANIZED BY PEOPLE TOGETHER JAN. 19. PARTICIPANTS APPEAR REPRESENT CROSS SECTION ALL SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND AGE GROUPS. THERE SIGNIFICANT NUMBER YOUNG PEOPLE IN LATE TEENS AND EARLY TWENTIES.

4. ONE FRAGMENTARY VERSION IRA PROPOSALS FOR EXTENDED CEASEFIRE (REFTTEL) SURFACED LATE JAN. 17. IT UNCLEAR WHERE OR BY WHOM THESE PROPOSALS REVEALED JAN. 17 OR WHAT WAS ORIGINAL CHANNEL TRANSMISSION BETWEEN PROVISIONAL IRA AND BRITISH GOVERNMENT. REPORTS INDICATE PROPOSALS CALLED FOR (A) ESTABLISHMENT FEDERAL SYSTEM WITH CONVENTION ELECTED TO ESTABLISH CONSTITUTION AND PARLIAMENTS NORTHERN IRELAND AND REPUBLIC AND NORTHERN IRELAND REPRESENTATION BASED ON OLD NINE-COUNTY ULSTER, (B) BRITISH TO WITHDRAW TROOPS AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS OF ESTABLISHMENT CONSTITUTION, (C) ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS (CONVICTS) AND ALL ON SECURITY AUTHORITIES LISTS WANTED MEN TO BE AMNESTIED ONE MONTH BEFORE CONVENTION ELECTIONS. AT ANNUAL MEETING SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND LABOUR PARTY (SEPTTEL) M.P. GERRY FITT ANNOUNCED JAN. 18 HE AUTHORIZED REVEAL BRITISH GOVERNMENT INTENTIONS RELEASE 100 DETAINEES THIS WEEK IF CEASEFIRE HAD BEEN EXTENDED. FITT SAID PROVISIONALS DID NOT RPT NOT WANT LARGE NUMBERS DETAINEES RELEASED.
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